REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 1 was provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and being unpatentable over Black et al. in view of Fredin et al. Claims 3-5, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Fredin and further in view of Soloway et al. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Fredin and Soloway as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Global Engineering. Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

A terminal disclaimer is being filed concurrently herewith. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-13 and 15 have been amended, and claim 3 has been canceled, leaving claims 1, 2 and 4-15 presently under consideration. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 was provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting. In particular, claim 1 was provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 6 of copending U.S. Application No. 10/612,753. A terminal disclaimer is being filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the provisional rejection of claim 1 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting has been overcome.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, certain phrases in claims 1, 6 and 15 were found to lack antecedent basis. Claims 1 has been amended to recite "creating routes based on receipt of certain arbitrated Loop primitives." Claim 6 has been amended to recite "a previous OPEN Fibre Channel primitive (OPN)." Claim 15 has been amended to depend from claim 9. With these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 15 (and claims 2-5 and 7-14 which

depend from claims 1 and 6) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite has been overcome.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and being unpatentable over Black in view of Fredin. Claim 1 has been amended. With the amendments to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been overcome.

The present invention is directed to trunking between a plurality of Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop (FCAL) switches interconnected by multiple *duplicate* interswitch links, each FCAL switch having route determination logic for creating routes based at least in part on a *trunk grouping table*.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to recite that each FCAL switch includes "route determination logic creating routes based on . . . a *trunk grouping table*." (Emphasis added.) Furthermore, amended claim 1 now recites "wherein the first and second Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop switches are interconnected by multiple *duplicate* interswitch links and transfer frames through at least two of the plurality of ports on each switch." (Emphasis added.)

Black contains no disclosure at all related to trunking, and therefore fails to disclose, teach or suggest t (1) routing based on a trunk grouping table, and (2) interconnecting first and second Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop switches with multiple duplicate interswitch links as recited in amended claim 1.

Fredin also contains no disclosure at all related to trunking, and therefore fails to disclose, teach or suggest t (1) routing based on a trunk grouping table, and (2) interconnecting first and second Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop switches with multiple duplicate interswitch links as recited in amended claim 1. With regard to limitation (2), Fredin discloses multiple FCAL switches 200 interconnected by multiple interswitch links 220 (see FIG. 3 of Fredin), but these interswitch links 220 are *not duplicate*, as recited in amended claim 1. In other words, for any two switches 200 in FIG. 3 of Fredin, there is only one interswitch link 220, no duplicate interswitch links (compare to duplicate interswitch links 1829 and 1830 in FIG. 27 of the present application).

Because neither Black nor Fredin, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1 (and claim 2, which depends from claim1), it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and being unpatentable over Black in view of Fredin has been overcome.

Claims 3-5, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Fredin and further in view of Soloway. Claims 3-5, 12 and 14 depend from claim 1, which has been amended as discussed above. With the amendments to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 3-5, 12 and 14 has been overcome.

As described above, neither Black nor Fredin, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest (1) routing based on a trunk grouping table, and (2) interconnecting first and second Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop switches with multiple duplicate interswitch links as recited in amended claim 1.

Furthermore, Soloway fails to make up for the deficiencies of Black and Fredin with regard to limitation (1), in that Soloway contains no disclosure at all related to a trunk grouping table. Although the Office Action cites column 1, lines 66-67 and column 2, lines 1-5 of Soloway as providing this teaching, those lines only describe trunking in the most general sense, and do not describe any structure or function similar to a trunk grouping table. In fact, Soloway teaches away from the use of a trunk grouping table: "there is no need to manually configure the ISLs [inter-switch links] of FIG. 4 into 'trunk groups' of redundant links that can offload each other." (Soloway, column 7, lines 29-31.)

Because neither Black, Fredin nor Soloway, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 3-5, 12 and 14 (which depend from claim 1) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Fredin and further in view of Soloway has been overcome.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Fredin and Soloway as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Global Engineering.

Claim 9 depends from claim 1, which has been amended as discussed above. With the amendments to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 9 has been overcome.

As described above, neither Black nor Fredin nor Soloway, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest (1) routing based on a trunk grouping table, and (2) interconnecting first and second Fibre Channel Arbitrated Loop switches with multiple duplicate interswitch links as recited in amended claim 1.

Furthermore, Global Engineering fails to make up for the deficiencies of Black and Fredin with regard to limitation (1), in that Global Engineering contains no disclosure at all related to trunking, and therefore fails to disclose, teach or suggest a trunk grouping table.

Because neither Black, Fredin, Soloway, nor Global Engineering, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 9 (which depends from claim 1) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Black in view of Fredin and Soloway as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Global Engineering has been overcome.

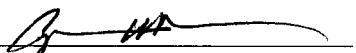
Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 depend from claim 1. As described above, claims 1, 6 and 15 have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Because amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable, as discussed above, claims 6-8, 10, 11, 13 and 15 are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 491442011621. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: June 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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